

Newsletter TERM 1 - 2023



Inspiring learners for life.

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Welcome

Dear families,

On behalf of the committee of management, I'd like to welcome our new and returning families to Viewbank Pre School for 2023.

The year is already off to a great start and it has been wonderful to see so many smiling faces around the kinder with our Green, Blue and Red group students settling in well. We are fortunate to have a wonderful team of educators supporting the children as they develop new skills and experiences at Kinder.

Our Kinder thrives on the input of families, so it was fantastic to see such a large turn out to our recent Welcome BBQ. We had a huge turn out with families from all three kinder groups. For the children it was a great opportunity to connect with kids from within their groups and also to meet some children from the other groups. We also had a number of returning students and perhaps even a few aspiring ones too! For the parents, it was an opportunity to build or expand networks and get to know the families outside of 'drop off'. Of course, the event couldn't have gone ahead without the wonderful support of our Fundraising committee so thank you to Angela, Jackie, Carolyn and Chief Cook Steve for all your hard work and excellent catering!

In February we showcased our Kinder to the community via the Council Kinder Open Day. The feedback from the families that attended was overwhelmingly positive with so many loving the feel of the kinder and the opportunities to play in such a unique space. Thank you to the Teachers, Educators and our Enrolment Officer, Megan for showcasing our Kinder and answering the questions of the community.

RED GROUP

Healthy Harold - Becoming Healthy
15th March

Kinder Photo Day
Friday, 24th March

Lapathon fundraiser event
5th April

BLUE GROUP

Photo Day.
23rd March

March-walk to Letterbox
27th March

Drama Toolbox
'Minibeasts' Incursion.
3rd April

Lapathon
4th April

Last Day of Term
6th April

GREEN GROUP

Green Dress-up Day.
21st March

Kindergarten Photo Day
23rd March

Pebble Time Music Incursion
30th March

Last session for term 1 and
Party In The Park
6th April

In 2023, Viewbank Pre School opted-in to the Victorian State Government's 'Free funded kinder' program. The program increases access to Kinder programs for families and recognises the important role that Kinder's play in Early Childhood Education. The funding we receive as a Kinder however, is significantly less than what we have had in previous years.

As such, this means that we are required to raise funds to cover facility maintenance, excursions, incursions and essentially keep the lights on. The shortfall would equate to approximately \$200 per child who attends our Kinder. We ask that each family considers making a contribution of \$50 per term or \$200 annually to help ensure the continued viability of our Kinder. Details on how to make a donation can be found later in this newsletter.

There is lots to look forward to with the 4-year-old group's Lap-a-thon and 3-year-old Dress Up days and party in the park. And of course, don't miss an opportunity to be a parent helper! Volunteering a few hours to be the parent helper will be an experience you will never forget! And most of all, your child will LOVE IT!

I look forward to seeing you all around the Kinder!

Regards,

Andrew Isaac
President

Red Group



Welcome to all our Red group families. Red group have had a positive start to the year. If you would like to keep up to date with what is happening in the program please read our weekly reflections on our website using your parent pass-word to get into the portal.

Red group has 11 boys and 11 girls this year. We have been averaging 21 a session.



The Red group teaching team this year is Ann-Marie and Merryn on both Wednesdays and Fridays. We have Anna supporting us on Wednesdays for part of our session and Dawei with us on a Friday delivering the language program.

We still need parent help during the sessions. The Parent duty roster will be available on the sign in pedestal later in the term if you would like to put your name down. Parent help is so important in enriching what we can offer in our kinder environment. Parents also gain an insight into how your child is going at kinder. Grand-parents and any family members are welcome to help out during the sessions if mum's and dad's are busy.



The children each have a portfolio in the room. These are filling up already with the very busy work we have been doing. We invite you to contribute to the portfolio if you like. Portfolios need to stay at the kinder so please come in any time to have a look along with your child. Families will be taking portfolio's home over the mid-year holidays.

Red group are slowly settling into their big day at kinder. Some are quite tired in the afternoons. We have been reflecting and adapting our routines to find what works best for this group of children. This involves looking at the dynamics of the group as well as energy levels and trying to meet the individual needs of all children. We have had a few quite anxious children but we are relaxing quickly after parents leave. Everyone is enjoying their time during the session once settled. Please be assured we will always call you if your child continues to be distressed. No news from us is good news regarding unsettled children.



We have been enjoying the indoor and outdoor spaces using our imaginations and making lovely social connections with our kinder friends.



Red Group



What have we been experiencing in the program

- "Getting to know you" activities including Songs and About Me Sheets which we are sharing with the group.
- Learning kinder rules.
- Recognising/reading our name on a flash-card.
- Learning to follow an instruction at the start of a transition.
- Drawing self portraits and pictures of our families.

Group times have been full of action songs. We went on an imaginary bush walk and a jungle walk. The children have enjoyed the colour song, Clap your hands and Twist ,Shake Wiggle. We have had lots of meaningful discussions during our story times. I post pictures of the books we have been reading at kinder in our reflections.

Our intentional teaching for the remainder of the term includes:

- Sustainability -Composting / recycling / worm farming
- Body Awareness- Body Investigators show
- Domestic Pets
- Healthy eating - Books, posters and discussions. We will learn the Healthy eating pyramid.
- Exercising – Lapathon event to end term 1.

Important dates for this term

- Pebble Time Dance - Wednesday 1st March 11.30am
- Living Safely With Dogs - Wednesday 8th March 10am
- Healthy Harold - Becoming Healthy
- Wednesday 15th March 10am
- Week 10 Lapathon
- Wednesday 5th April 9.30am

Exciting Plans for term 2

We will have a weekly Yoga program in term 2 on a Friday, 9.30-10.30. Kaye from Calm4kids will be visiting us from week 2-8.

Special Mother's Day event on Friday 12th May from 9.30-10.30

If you have any concerns regarding something happening at kinder please feel free to email me – redgroup@viewbankpreschool.com.au

Ann-Marie, Merryn, Dawei and Anna

Blue Group



Hello Blue Group families! After a great start to the year, we are looking forward to getting to know you all and sharing many kindergarten experiences and learning opportunities throughout the year. We have spent the last few weeks getting to know each other and becoming familiar with the kindergarten routines. We have discussed our kindergarten rules and how they help keep us safe.

On Mondays, we have introduced a short quiet/ relaxation time after lunch - the children are enjoying listening to some short stories and relaxation music while we give our minds and bodies a moment to recharge.

We have been getting to know each other through group songs and games. We have completed some self-portraits and pictures of our families. We have put these together in a book and are taking it in turns to share these with the rest of the group. We have begun to send our 'Blue Group Families' book home for the children to share with you. Please return at the next session.

Snails and insects have been of interest to the children. They have enjoyed exploring our beautiful garden in search of any small creatures. Together we made a giant collage snail that we named Jeremy. We researched what snails eat, how they eat and where they live. Some children chose to make a house for the snails they found.

We introduced the children to our worm farm, and they have been adding their food scraps each day. We had lots of banana peels, so we made some 'banana water' which is a nutritious drink for plants. The children have been helping to water our new plants and grass. We discussed how to care for our new grass which meant we couldn't use it for the first few weeks. Traffic cones were positioned around it as a reminder to 'Keep Off'.

Coincidentally Anna and I had pizza for lunch one day which generated lots of conversation around favourite toppings and who makes the pizza in your house. This evolved into us making our own pizzas for lunch, pizza making with playdough and then a pizza shop!

Lots of construction both inside and outside has involved negotiating, sharing ideas and problem solving. Blocks have been used to make roads, dinosaur houses, aeroplanes, work sites and festivals. We added some spirit levels and rulers to extend this play.

Role play opportunities with the indoor house, outdoor kitchen and doll houses have been very busy with almost all children spending time in these spaces.

Blue Group



After discovering a treasure map and a key in the yard the children have been eager to search for the 'X' marks the spot and dig for treasure. They drew their own treasure maps and used them in their play outside.

Jo from Pebble Time visited blue Group on the 23rd February shared some songs and dances with us and played her guitar.

What's coming up?

- Thursday 23rd March-Photo Day.
- Monday 27th March-Walk to Letterbox
- Monday 3rd April-Drama Toolbox 'Minibeasts' Incursion.
- Tuesday 4th April-Lapathon
- Thursday 6th April-Last Day of Term.

Looking ahead to Term 2...

- Weekly yoga session with our Calm4Kids Yoga Program.
- Tuesday 9th May-Mother's Day Special Event
- Tuesday 16th May-Pebble Time Session 2
- Monday 5th June-Healthy Harold 'Belonging and Connecting'
- Library borrowing Program

Weekly Reflections

Have you been looking at our weekly reflections? The photos and comments we post each week provide a great starting point for you to chat to your child about what they have been engaged in at kindergarten. Go to our website, click on blue group and use the blue group password to access these.

Birthday Box

Thank you to those families that have contributed to our birthday box. We have already celebrated several birthday's in Blue Group. If you have not yet donated, please bring a \$5 gift (stickers, gel pens, game, puzzle, toy) in the next week or so.

Parent Helpers

Thank you to all the parents/family members that have joined us during our sessions to help out. The children love having a family member come to kinder and we really appreciate your help. Please sign in and out in our visitors' book when you are on parent duty. It is located on the side of the sign in desk.

Toys

Please keep toys at home. Special items brought from home can distract from the kindergarten experiences and cause disappointment if they are lost or broken.

Please feel free to contact us
Barb, Anna, Dawei and Peggy
bluegroup@viewbankpreschool.com.au

Green Group



The children in Green Group have had a wonderful start to the year. We have been learning new routines, meeting new friends and developing skills for separating confidently from our loved ones. On a Thursday we are lucky to have Peggy working with us as an additional educator this term, please say hello if you see her in the room. She is a wonderful addition to our teaching team.

We currently have 20 children in our group, one of whom has an anaphylactic allergy to wheat, dairy, peanuts and tree nuts. The children have been working well during meal times to remain at their table while eating, and only eating their own snacks. Thank-you to their wonderful families for providing delicious and safe foods while at kinder. It has been wonderful to see how already the children have become more confident when entering the room, and how they are taking ownership of the space. Allowing them to try and put their own belongings away and wash their hands has given them much to be proud about. Thankyou to all our families for your energy and positivity, it makes the world of difference in how the children settle into a new environment.

Over the past weeks we have enjoyed exploring the new spaces indoors and out, role playing family theme games (serving food, dressing up and looking after babies), exploring sea creatures, learning about friendship, and following kinder rules and routines. There has been lots of play in the home areas (indoors and outdoors), playing dinosaurs on the mat, enjoying free choice of materials at the craft table, and sharing stories in our library corner. This is always a great space for our parent helpers to relax and share some story-time with the children. Outside has been just as busy, with easel painting, finger painting, and waterplay satisfying the sensory needs of the children. In the boat we have pretended to be pirates sailing the high seas and then making our own treasure maps, and the sand pit has been a construction zone where diggers and trucks move sand from one place to another.

Green Group



During group times our focus is on following instruction, learning our friends' names, answering simple questions, using eye contact, learning new songs and rhymes, and being brave enough to have a go. These are all skills that will be developed over the children's early years, right on into primary school. We have noticed more and more children beginning to join in with now familiar songs and rhymes, particularly our Acknowledgement of Country, "Hello" and "Tiny Turtle Tim" songs. Together we came up with some safe play rules and we talked about the importance of including others and caring for others. We aim to create an environment where the children feel safe and secure, as well as being part of a team.



Our parent community has been wonderfully supportive, and in particular I would like to thank the Green Group families for working with us through our staggered intake program. Short sessions at the beginning of the year are so valuable to the staff and children and really help us build that secure relationship we need with each child. We hope you are enjoying our 'sessions reflections' and photos each week on the parent portal. Please let us know if you need assistance accessing these. Also thank you for filling up our duty roster, we hope you are enjoying your time with us in the session.



Some special dates for your diary:

- Tuesday 21st March – Green Dress-up Day. (Children wear something green to kinder)
- Thursday 23rd March – Kindergarten Photo Day
- Thursday 30th March – Pebble Time Music Incursion
- Thursday 6th April – Last session for term 1 and Party In The Park. Look out for an invitation in your notice pocket!

Vicki, Merryn & Peggy

Language Program



Dajia Hao (Hello everyone)!

I am Dawei, it is a pleasure to meet our Blue and Red groups on Mondays and Fridays in Term 1 this year to engage children in fun learning experiences in our language program.

To start our language learning journey, a Nihao (Hello) song was introduced to children. We greet each other with the music and get ready for our fun language learning activities.

In Term 1, so far, we have learnt our Mingzi (names). We have sent love messages to our loved ones in Mandarin "Wo Ai Ni!" (I love you!) before Valentine's Day. We have also learned how to address our family members in Mandarin and created our own family trees. To conclude our family unity learning, we have also completed our own Kinder Family tree. I am amazed to see some great cutting skills and some authentic and creative artists in both groups. Our learning was further extended to counting how many family members do we have in our families where the Mandarin numbers were introduced to children. Number recognizing and matching games were then engaged children with more in-depth learning and understanding of numbers from Yi (One) to Shi (Ten) in Mandarin.



In the rest of Term 1 we will continue to extend our language learning to shapes, knowing Chinese food culture and Chinese animals. Please also feel free to contribute to our language program when you can. I will keep my mind and heart open to any new ideas and suggestions when it comes to language teaching and learning. I would also like to share some home learning resources with our families:

There are many ways to support your child's language learning at home. Here are some free resources to consider

- iLanguages
- Duolingo
- Memrise
- Digital Dialects

Our language program is fully incorporated in the 4 – year- old Kinder program and will continue to be delivered through songs, games, stories, art activities etc throughout the year.

For more information about our language program, you are always welcome to have a chat with me (Blue Group on Monday/ Red Group on Friday).

Dawei

elanguages@viewbankpreschool.com.au



Special news and events

Viewbank Preschool Welcome BBQ

It was lovely to get together to welcome all Viewbank Preschool families at our welcome BBQ event on the 16th March. The sun was shining, the snags were sizzling and young and older'er' enjoyed mingling in our freshly landscaped kinder grounds!

It was a great fundraising start too with \$1182 raised to kick off our fundraising efforts for 2023. We raffled an amazing food and wine hamper and \$50 voucher generously donated by Four Leaves Cafe in Greville Rd Rosanna fourleavescafe.com. Congratulations to our lucky winners - Oliver from Green Group family! A big thanks also to Woolworths Heidelberg and Bakers Delight for all their support.

We need your support

In 2023, Viewbank Pre School opted-in to the Victorian State Government's 'Free funded kinder' program. The program increases access to Kinder programs for families and recognises the important role that Kinder's play in Early Childhood Education. The funding we receive as a Kinder however, is significantly less than what we have had in previous years.

As such, this means that we need to raise funds to cover facility maintenance, excursions, incursions and general running costs. The shortfall would equate to approximately \$200 per child who attends our Kinder. We ask that each family considers making a contribution of \$50 per term or \$200 annually to help ensure the continued

As a community-run kindergarten we rely on parent volunteers to help manage our kinder, get involved in voluntary maintenance and participate in fundraising. Your time and donations are very much appreciated.

Donations

Scan [here](#) to make your donation to our Kinder.



2023 spots still available

We currently have 1 x place in our 3YO program and 2 places in our 4YO Blue group program available if families have friends, neighbours or relatives that would like to enrol at our kinder. Please email enquiries to enrolments@viewbankpreschool.com.au

General news

2023 Management Committee vacant role - Occupational, Health and Safety Officer

We are looking for a parent to join our management committee in the role of Occupational, Health and Safety Officer. This role entails checking and maintaining our first aid supplies each term, performing an 'general workplace inspection checklist with a staff member each term, recording and reporting any issues that arise to the committee of management and attend monthly meetings(online). If it's difficult for you to help out with parent duty during sessions this maybe a suitable opportunity for you to contribute to your child's kindergarten year. Please let your child's teacher know if this is of interest to you or email - enquiry@viewbankpreschool.com.au

Car parking

Please ensure cars are only parked on the kinder side of the road (Duff Parade) at drop off and pick up times. Cars parking on both sides creates congestion and increases the risk of accidents due to poor vision. Children should be exiting cars on the kerb side of the car.

Collecting your child

Parents/carers are required to come into the kindergarten room to collect their child after each session. Staff are unable to dismiss children to siblings under the age of 18yrs. We understand it gets very busy at this time so if all parents could move inside the room and down towards the mat area it will help relieve the congestion. We ask that siblings waiting in the foyer refrain from knocking on the door as this distracts the kindergarten children during end of session story time/group time.

Thank you for your understanding.

Donations

We are seeking donations of the following items:

- Lego and Duplo people
- Matchbox cars
- Blank paper for drawing on

Kinder merchandise

T shirts and Hoodies (hats coming soon) of various colours are back in stock. Order forms can be found near the sign in book or by emailing

fundriasing@viewbankpreschool.com.au

Sun-smart policy

Please ensure you apply sunscreen to your child before every session. Even in the cooler weather UV ratings are often still extreme. Sunscreen is available in the foyer for you to apply if you forget to do it at home. Please speak to the teachers if your child requires their own sunscreen - do not leave sunscreen in children's bags as it is difficult for us to monitor who touches it. A wide brimmed or legionnaires hat is also required every day.

Food at Kindergarten Please ensure you have read our food and nutrition policy, as well as the current communications regarding children with serious food allergies. We ask that sweet treats (chocolate, lollies, cakes) and foods containing nuts are kept for home. Water is preferred for kindergarten. Please keep milk drinks, juice and yakult for your child to have at home.

Spare clothing All children require a full change of clothes every session. Providing a wet pack/waterproof bag is also handy to put wet/soiled clothes in.

What to wear at Kindergarten? We are busy at kinder. We get dirty, we run, climb, get wet, paint, and dig in the garden. Please dress your child in comfortable clothes that can get dirty. Shorts, elastic waisted pants, leggings, trackpants, t-shirts, jumpers/hoodies are comfortable and easy for children to manage. Runners and sandals are the best footwear. Thongs and crocs are very slippery when climbing. **Please keep these items for home - singlet tops/sleeveless dresses, long dresses, precious tutus and skirts, crocs, and thongs.**

Illness If your child is unwell please give them time at home to recover. Keeping unwell children at home helps reduce the spread of illness to other children and staff. Please email your child's teacher or phone the Kindergarten if your child will be absent.

Parent Duty Please remember to sign yourself in and out in the visitors register when you come to help. This folder is in a pocket beside the sign in book.

Thank you to all the parents/guardians that have joined us during sessions to help. This is a great opportunity to see how your child interacts with their peers as well as experience all the amazing things your kindergarten child can do. Please see your child's teacher if you have any questions.

Community news

Stories re-imagined

Stories re-imagined is a new business that offers a unique concept of 'book play.'

Run by two of our Viewbank Preschool families - Jessie Wenborn and Lisa Briglia, they offer curated open-ended play kits based on popular children's books. These kits provide an interactive way for children to engage with the story and characters, while fostering their love of reading and encouraging independent play. Each kit includes a variety of materials and prompts, such as sensory materials, figurines, and language prompts, that allow children to explore the story in their own unique way. These kits are perfect for families, educators and caregivers to encourage a love of reading, creativity and imagination in children.

Learn more

Visit [Storiesreimagined.com](https://www.storiesreimagined.com) or find them on Instagram @stories_reimagined.



Banyule outdoor movies

Free



**Anthony Beale Reserve
Saturday, 15 April 2023**

No bookings required.
Bring a picnic rug and enjoy.



Spirited Untamed: The movie (G)
3pm - 4.30pm

Minions: The Rise of Gru (PG)
5pm - 6:30pm




Banyule
City Council

banyule.vic.gov.au/movies